United Nations A/57/623

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 111, 112 and 115

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the items entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", "Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003" and "Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" and to allocate them to the Fifth Committee.

2. At its 26th meeting, on 18 November 2002, the Fifth Committee considered the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/57/7).[1] Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/57/SR.26).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note

[1] To be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/57/7).

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with appreciation of the above-mentioned report of the Advisory Committee and requested the Secretary-General to bring it to the attention of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the funds and programmes concerned (see para. 4).

II. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

4. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly decides to take note with appreciation of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly[1] and requests the Secretary-General to bring the report to the attention of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the funds and programmes concerned.

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Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" and to allocate chapters I, VII (sects. B and C) and IX of the report of the Council[1] to the Fifth Committee.

2. At its 26th meeting, on 18 November 2002, the Fifth Committee considered the chapters of the report of the Council that had been allocated to it. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/57/SR.26).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that had been allocated to the Fifth Committee (see para. 4).

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

4. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of chapters I, VII (sects. B and C) and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council.[1]

[1] A/57/3; to be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1).

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General Assembly
Security Council

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Agenda items 36 and 160

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 22 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The recent escalation in the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign continues to claim the lives of innocent men, women and children in criminal acts of despicable cruelty.

Yesterday morning at rush hour, a Palestinian suicide bomber from Bethlehem detonated his explosives on a crowded public bus, filled with schoolchildren and morning commuters, in Jerusalem's Kiryat Menahem neighbourhood. The blast killed 11 people and injured 50 others. Of those killed, four were children on their way to school, between 8 and 16 years old, including a mother and her son and a grandmother and her grandson, as well as a national of Romania. Over half of those wounded were under the age of 18. Witnesses described a horrific scene of people being burnt alive, with the charred remains of schoolbooks and lunches strewn among the dead and wounded. The terrorist organization Hamas, which operates openly from Palestinian Authority territory and is funded by several States, including Iran, immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Reports from eyewitnesses suggest that the bomber boarded the bus several stops before he detonated his explosives, waiting for it to become filled with passengers. The bomb itself was packed with shrapnel, ball bearings and screws so as to increase the pain and suffering of the victims. Indeed, the timing and manner of this horrific terrorist attack and the fact that the targeted bus stops at four schools on its route suggest that the bomber deliberately intended to murder and maim not just innocent civilians, but schoolchildren specifically. Unfortunately, this is consistent with the tactics adopted by all Palestinian terrorist groups, which are intentionally designed to cause the greatest possible amount of death and injury to innocent civilians.

In view of the steadfast and criminal refusal of the Palestinian leadership to meet its moral and legal responsibilities under international law, Security Council

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resolutions and its own signed commitments to combat this continuing crime against humanity, and of the official Palestinian culture of hatred and incitement which nurtures such terrorism, Israel is compelled to take the defensive measures necessary to protect its citizens. The fact that the bomber came from Bethlehem, a town from which Israeli troops had recently withdrawn in return for a commitment that peace and order would be maintained by Palestinian security personnel, and from which, despite this withdrawal, attempts to organize and perpetrate terrorist attacks have continued, shows that Israeli defensive operations are, unfortunately, the only protection standing between the terrorists and their intended victims.

Israel repeats its call to all members of the international community to condemn unequivocally this horrific terrorist attack and the morally bankrupt and inhuman terrorist strategy adopted by the Palestinian leadership. More importantly, the international community must demand and accept nothing less than the complete implementation by the Palestinian side of a policy of zero tolerance for terrorism and incitement, as required by international law and Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1435 (2002), and consistent with the global campaign against terrorism and its supporters.

Until such time, the international community must hold the Palestinian leadership accountable for its horrific crimes and make it clear that terrorism will not be rewarded by political concessions of any kind, and that Israel, like any State which is the victim of terrorism, will be fully entitled, as is its right and duty, to take defensive measures in accordance with international law. Indeed, until the Palestinian leadership is compelled to abandon its embrace of terrorism, its support and celebration of the deliberate targeting of innocents and its glorification of the murderers of women and children as "martyrs", there can be no hope for peace in the region, for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism since September 2000.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/57/626

General Assembly

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26 November 2002

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 22 November 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution on Khmer Rouge trials which the Third Committee has recommended to the General Assembly for adoption (A/C.3/57/L.70).

If it adopts the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request me to resume negotiations to conclude an agreement with the Government of Cambodia on the establishment of Extraordinary Chambers within the existing court structure of Cambodia for the prosecution of crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea.

In that event my intention would be to conduct those negotiations in such a way as to ensure that prosecutions and trials before those Chambers comply with established international standards regarding the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, the effectiveness, impartiality and fairness of prosecutors and the integrity and credibility of the legal process.

It is also my intention to include information on the financing needs of the Extraordinary Chambers in the report that I would submit to the General Assembly in accordance with operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. The report will also include a proposal on the method of funding, including through assessed contributions.

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter to the members of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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